

Temperance—1923

Drunkenness Doubles

In Montgomery During Past Year, Is Report

Montgomery Advertiser

Dry law authorities take a peep at
tals and weep! 1-7-23

In spite of the presence of the national prohibition law and the general absence of open saloons, drunkenness was on the up-grade in Montgomery last year and by a strong degree at that. The annual report of the police department is authority for this statement. It is also the document which furnished the information that arrests for violations of the prohibition law showed a heavy increase when compared with 1921.

Here are the figures: During the year 1921, the city police arrested 272 persons charged with drunkenness. In 1922, the number of arrests on that charge totalled 578, an increase of 306. In 1921, the number of persons arrested on charge of violating the prohibition law was 192. Last year there were 313 alleged prohibition law violators arrested by the police department, an increase of 120.

THREE NEGROES HELD TO

FEDERAL GRAND JURY

The Montgomery Federal Agents Charge Owning of Il- licit Distillery.

Three negroes, James Boswell, Ben-
nie Murdock and Jesse Chapman were
bound over to await the action of the
federal grand jury when given prelimi-
nary hearing before Commissioner
James S. Parish Friday morning
charged with owning or operating an
illicit distillery. Bond was fixed at
\$200 in each instance and was met by
the defendants. 1-8-23

The three negroes were arrested by
W. H. Gillespie, federal prohibition
officer, and state officers, about 12
miles northeast of Montgomery Thurs-
day. The testimony of the officers
was that the men were caught, when
they drove a wagon loaded with sugar,
shorts and whiskey kegs to the still.
The still was alleged to have been set
up and to have been hot and smok-
ing from recent operation. Fifteen gal-
lons of whiskey were alleged to have
been found by officers near the still.

The three defendants entered pleas
of not guilty to the charge.

Alabama.

Temperance - 1923

Dry Amendment Can Not Be Enforced University Professor Tells Lawyers

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Jan. 26.—There is no likelihood that the eighteenth amendment ever can be enforced, no matter at what expenditure of money or of effort, Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, declared in an address today at the annual mid-winter meeting of the Ohio State Bar Association.

He linked the prohibition amendment with the fifteenth addition to the constitution of the United States, which was proclaimed in 1870 and granted negro suffrage, as "two important and law-made influences which now are making, and seem likely long to make, for lawlessness in American life."

He asserted that "methods of czarist Russia, and the Spanish inquisition" are being used to enforce one provision of the law, and said there are a "dozen verboten signs in the United States to every one that Russia can show."

After pointing out "the negro in those states where he voted when the fifteenth amendment was passed," the speaker asserted every attempt to enforce the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments had been denounced as a force bill. "Oddly enough," he continued, "it has been denounced by those very senators and representatives who will go to any length to enforce the provisions of the eighteenth amendment."

"The moral sense, as well as the common sense of very many people is affronted by a policy which will expend millions of dollars and use the methods of czarist Russia and the Spanish inquisition to enforce one provision of law, while others of far greater significance and public importance are accorded conventional treatment, or less."

"No one who is familiar with the practical workings of our political system would expect either the fifteenth or the eighteenth amendment to be repealed within measureable time. So far as one can see, therefore, we are shut up to the alternative of their attempted enforcement by soldiers and police and special agents, and detectives and spies, or to their abrogation over a great part of the land by local initiative and common consent. Either alternative is humiliating and degrading."

The *Twin City Messenger*, published at equally frank when Gilbert K. Chesterton, commended the president terton touches her on the raw, and faculty of West Virginia University. The English master-of-epigram dis-

One of the saddest after results of the war was the almost universal use of this deadly habit by the boys who returned. Little concern seems to have been exercised by the American people over this evil. We are delighted that the day has come when one of our state universities has had the courage to launch out upon this reform that is so much needed. When our educational institutions begin to forbid the use of cigarettes, it will mean a new day for the leadership of tomorrow. All hail to our State University!

The probable effect of this arbitrary action will be to add cigarette smoking to the forbidden pleasures of college life. An educational campaign showing the evils of the cigarette habit might have been a more effective measure.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
MARCH 7, 1923
DRY LAWS AND NEGRO-BURN

"A touch, a touch, I do confess," cried Laertes. Sane America is

General

Negroes at all. "Morality" has spots like the leopard. That is true even of Great Britain. The Hindus are not so black as Mississippi's Ethiopians and Amritsar is unpunished and unavenged. Yet what Britain did in the early Nineteenth Century to end the slave trade, what she did to end inhuman cruelty's reign in Africa, the reforms she brought about in Egypt, her quick response to the true story of Turkish atrocities in Bulgaria and her general acceptance in good faith of the White Man's burden are white spots and her average national morality lightens rather than darkens this wicked world. Outside of his epigram factory or laboratory, Mr. Chesterton would make a like concession to the morality of the United States.

Our dry laws stand for a vast experiment in sociology, as interesting as Lenin's experiment in Russia and perhaps no more hopeful. If British conservatism chooses to wait and see what will happen before tackling one experiment or the other, we are not surprised. Of nations as of individuals it may be said, "the wise profit by other people's experience, the foolish by their own."

It's too much to demand strict logic from an epigram-forger. Lynching is neither cause nor effect of dryness. We suppose the two may be said to have had a common cause—the anxiety of whites in the South to "keep the Negro in his place." We might never have had National Prohibition but for a nearly solid South seeking to keep drink away from the Negroes and confident that the white man was ingenious enough to get what he wanted anyhow.

But a great country might burn Negroes at the stake even if rum flowed like water. Conversely it might be absolutely dry and burn no

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General.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RACE RELATIONS

The Citizenship Conference on Law Enforcement with special reference to the enforcement of the 13th Amendment and the Volstead Law held in Washington last month and important information was given to the surface in some of the principal sessions. *Information Service* November 3, 1923. Senator Borah, in the course of an important address, said: "There is no more to be said as to the 13th Amendment. It is a dead dog and it is dead dog to question the wisdom of the 13th Amendment; and when we object to the 13th Amendment, we are objecting to this spirit of lawlessness which is the action, or reaction, that shows, that there is, that national degradation, that moral breakdown must inevitably follow. . . . If we go on, if we go on, as states, coexisting at, if we go on, if we go on, the 13th Amendment which we do not like, the 13th Amendment which we do not like, it will inevitably disappear."

William C. Coker, of the Atlanta Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, speaking for the Negro people, said, "To enforce the 13th Amendment will prove of tremendous value to the people of my race. Since January, 1920, many hundreds of Negroes who had been coming to spend their money at the saloons for drink have been told to leave. Now, S. W. Wood, a Negro delegate from Pittsburgh, related how he had been told to leave his home in protecting Negro neighborhoods from being burned. The will of the Negro people is favorable towards the enforcement of the 13th Amendment. He believes that if America will enforce the 13th Amendment it will probably produce such happy results that white citizens will be glad for the enforcement of the 13th and 14th Amendments on which so much of Negro welfare depends. The Negro was also represented on the Executive Committee and other committees of the Conference."

THE PRESIDENT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

In his Denver speech on "Law Enforcement" President Harding made his strongest statements putting the question squarely before the public. He leaves no chance for dodging or compromising. The law must be enforced. This is as it should be.

The President devoted the major part of his address to the enforcement of the 13th Amendment and made this significant statement: "The prohibition amendment to the Constitution is the basic law of the land."

We are proud to have the President make that statement. But we would also call his attention to the fact that there is another amendment, older than the "prohibition amendment" that is as much "the basic law of the land" as is the 18th, and that is the 14th. Can the 18th Amendment be any more basic than the 14th or any other amendment? Then why place so much stress upon the enforcement of one amendment and absolutely neglect the other? The non-enforcement of the 14th amendment is more detrimental to the country than the failure to enforce the 18th.

The failure to enforce the 18th amendment is a dangerous and demoralizing thing, says the President. "It will be the means of encouraging disrespect for many laws. It will bring disrepute upon our community, and be pointed to as justifying the charge that we are a nation of hypocrites. There can be no issue in this land paramount to that of enforcement of the law."

The President is in error over the failure to enforce the 18th

amendment "encouraging disrespect for many laws." That disrespect already exists from the failure of the National Government to enforce the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments. The habit has already been formed and to change it now would be like learning an old dog new tricks.

The humiliating failure of the National government to enforce the 14th amendment is reaping its reward in the disrespect shown the Government when it endeavors to enforce the 18th amendment. As Lincoln said: "The Union cannot exist half slave and half free," neither can the National Government hope to enforce the 18th, or any other amendment when it fails to enforce all of the Constitution. Sure, "there can be no issue in the land paramount to that of enforcement of the law," Mr. President; but you must enforce all of the amendments and not pick out a few of them.

The failure to enforce the 18th amendment does not commence to do the injustice, the personal harm nor wield the baneful influences upon the body politic as the failure of the enforcement of the 14th. When the President fails to enforce the 14th amendment, human slavery of the rarest type exists in practically every Southern state in the deadly form of peonage, as in the recent Martin Tabert case in Florida. When the President fails to enforce the 14th amendment, colored citizens of the United States are denied the opportunity of exercising their franchise in the various elections in every state from Virginia to Texas. When the President fails to enforce the 14th amendment mobs form and shoot, hang and burn American citizens on the smallest pretense. When the president fails to enforce the 14th amendment American citizens are segregated and jim crowed on various public passenger transportation lines south of the Mason and Dixon line. When the President fails to enforce the 14th amendment the people learn to wink at the Constitution and having been indulged by their government, they conclude that they can disregard the President's edict in the enforcement of the 18th amendment as well as the 14th.

The people of the South have resented the enforcement of the 14th amendment and that resentment, like race prejudice has completely enveloped this country. The people of the North say that as long as the people of the South can disregard and make a scrap of paper out of the 14th amendment we will disregard and make a scrap of paper out of the 13th amendment. Therefore, chaos reigns.

We commend the Denver speech of the President and would have him know that we court, we demand, "law enforcement."

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Georgia.

JUL 14 1923
"AN EXPLANATION AND
NOT AN APOLOGY" FROM
J. O. STEWART

Thomasville, Ga., July 14, 1923.

Since coming here Feb. 1st, as County Police, I have tried to do my duty, and to treat everyone just alike for the same offense, but this does not seem to please every one. There are some people here, in Thomas county who think that if an officer catches one man today that has a lot of money and a lot of friends, he ought to be turned loose, and apologized to, for interfering with him, and on the other hand, if the officer catches a man out here in the country that has no money and no friends and a house full of children, this man ought to be brought into court and put on the gang and build roads for the more fortunate man to ride over in their big cars.

I have been criticised for going out four miles south of town and raiding the Hanna farm, Saturday afternoon and taking some whiskey and wine and making a case against Mr. Charlie Kivler. If Mr. Kivler had not been acting out of the way with his drinks, we never would have gone there, nor would we go to any one's place, that was not acting out of the way with his drinks, no matter whether he was worth five million dollars, and lived in a fine house, or wasn't worth five cents, and lived fifteen miles in the woods in a log house.

If we had passed this place up, and had not made a case against Mr. Kivler, then what could we do to make things look good to the other fellows who have been caught and put on the gang, for having less whiskey than this man had? These unfortunate men are building roads for Mr. Kivler and others to ride over in their big cars every day. Now this is not only the case here, in this county, but in other counties too. There are always a class of so-called

big fellows, with high collars and fine clothes, who will pat an officer on his back, and say, "go to it, we are behind you." And they are, just as long as we catch the burr-headed negro, and the poor white man who lives in the country, and not able to pay a fine, and has to go to the gang. We are good officers and doing our duty until we ring up some high-tone fellow for the same offense. Then this same bunch will criticise the officer and try to have him fired, because he has "played the devil" by catching this sort of a fellow.

Mr. Kivler was nice to us, and we tried to be nice to him. He says he doesn't blame us, that we did our duty, and if he feels good towards us, then why should anyone else blow up about it?

We are being criticised about closing up the noted Sinclair boarding house, which is known all over South Georgia.

We have seen young boys, young girls, married men and married women going in and out of this house from eight o'clock at night 'till three o'clock in the morning. We have seen men who live here in this town go in this house at night that have wives and grown daughters at home, and go to Sunday school and preaching and just as soon as the sun goes, then they light out to the noted Sinclair house. How would these men feel if they went out there and found their wives or daughters out there? We are being criticised more by this class of men than by the single men.

Since I have been living in Thomas county, one of the women who lived there has caused a home to be wrecked in another county. I have had a good lady to come to me here on the streets, and cry and tell me the trouble this house was giving her and her little daughter. She said it was going to cause her to be without a husband and her little girl to be without a daddy.

Not very long after she talked to me they did separate. I went out to the Sinclair house and talked with this woman, and she tried to make fun of me, for thinking I could stop her. Were we right or wrong in closing up this house? I am sure that the best class of Thomas county people

will be with us in this kind of work, and if the other class are against us for doing this kind of work I do not care, for we are trying to catch that class, for they need catching.

I have said, and say it again, some think as long as the negro and the poorer class of white people that have a pint of stump whiskey or a gallon of buck are caught and put on the roads and fix them in good shape for the higher-ups to ride over in their big automobiles, and drive recklessly and haul their Scotch whiskey over at any time they want to, without being interfered with, if we do that we are good officers.

So the sooner we all find out that every one of us are going to be treated alike, the better it will be for all concerned, for as long as I stay on as County Police, I intend to treat every one alike for the same offense, whether you have plenty of money, and a lot of friends and drive a big car, or whether you have no friends, no money and drive a pair of wire-grass bulls to a log cart.

I want some good common sense white man to show why every white citizen shouldn't be treated alike. Or if any of you going around growling because we are trying to treat every one alike, can explain to me why every one shouldn't have a square deal, then I will quit and get out of the county.

Respectfully,
J. O. STEWART,
Thomas County Police.

Temperance - 1923.

Harlemites Make Protest

Against Reopening of the Cabaret in Lafayette Bldg.

Commissioner Glatzmayer Has Been Requested to Refuse License to White Man Who Proposes to Cater to Colored People in Resort That Has Won Disfavor.

POLICE INSPECTOR McDONALD AND CAPTAIN MULROONEY 38TH PRECINCT ENDORSE BAN

Citizens of Community Ask Be Placed on "Soft Drink" Places which are Opening in hitherto Restricted Neighborhoods—Are Camouflaged "Hootch" Joints.

Many written and spoken protests have been made by leading men and women of Harlem to the granting of a license for the proposed reopening of the cabaret located in the basement of the Lafayette Theatre building, formerly known as "Shuffle Inn," the proposition being promoted and financed by one Connie Immerman, a white man who has seemingly enlisted the support of a certain Harlem race element in his enterprise.

These protests have been taken direct to August W. Glatzmayer, Commissioner of Licenses, who has promised an exhaustive investigation into the merits of Immerman's application. The general consensus of opinion in Harlem, among the element which has the best interest of the race at heart and a desire to protect the boys and girls from debauchery by members of other races who are seeking primarily a financial benefit, is that there is a sufficient number of cabarets and similar resorts in Harlem.

There has been an effort made by the promoter of this new "Shuffle Inn" project to allay opposition and hostility to his venture by aligning himself with the colored men who are running amusement resorts in Harlem and who are members of the Colored Cabaret Owners' Association. The information at hand is to the effect that Immerman's application was turned down by these men.

Police Oppose Re-opening

Inspector Thomas McDonald, recently transferred to the Third Inspection District, giving him supervision over the Harlem section, has expressed himself as desirous of bettering conditions in Harlem in every way

possible, and he has declared that there is no need for additional resorts of this class. Captain Edward P. Mulrooney, successor to Captain Patrick Gargan, retired, in command of the 38th Precinct, West 135th street police station, takes a similar position.

Both these police officials will oppose the reopening of the "Shuffle Inn."

Immermann, all of a sudden, has developed unusual sympathy and kindness for the Harlem Negro. As a measure of his esteem he has advertised the fact that he has engaged a well-known colored Harlemites to take charge of the place when it is reopened, under the new name of "Connie's Inn."

There is another condition arousing decent Harlemites to a sense of community danger, and this is to be found in the innumerable "soft drink" places being opened up, many of them in neighborhoods hitherto free from nuisances of any description. The proprietors, most of whom are said to

be Italians, take advantage of the fact there is neither license or tax required, and as many of these places are really "bootlegging" and police calling joints, it becomes a profitable venture.

It is being suggested, as a means to curb the activities of "hootch" sellers

New York.

in this particular line, that the board of Alderman should place a tax or license fee upon these "soft drink" places and delicatessens, and thus give the city police authority to enter in search of law violations. The seeming character of these places make it possible for girls and women, as well as boys, to enter with the same freedom of movement at the men customers. Their entrance through the front door attracts no particular attention.

The Backroom Menace

But many of these places maintain small backrooms and these rooms the "hootch" is dispensed. This constitutes a dangerous menace to the moral and physical health of the community. Cases have been known in which women, sometimes young girls have become so intoxicated or doped from the effects of the drinks taken in these backrooms as to become practically helpless. And it has happened on several occasions that these victims of the "hootch"-dispensing bootleggers have been dragged out and thrust into dark hallways to recover as best they could.

And it is more than probable that some of these girls and women have become victims of a much more serious crime—their condition would make them easily overcome by men inspired with brutal lust.

Inspector McDonald declares that he will cooperate in every way with the citizens of Harlem in the effort to clean out these pest holes, but it is necessary that he have complaints on which to act. Capt. Mulrooney is a newcomer to Harlem, and has had little contact with colored people, but he has declared with emphasis that it is his intention to maintain a high degree of cooperation with the best elements of the Harlem citizenry, looking to maintaining and preserving the morale and high standard desired by the law and order supporters.

LAW ENFORCEMENT.

When the issue is sharply raised, as it was by the Citizenship Conference in Washington, whether a law which has been held constitutional, and which is regarded as of immediate and vital concern by great numbers of citizens, ought to be rigidly enforced, there can be but one answer. It is the same for men of all parties. Republicans will not be able to outstrip Democrats in at least lip service to the sanctity and majesty of the law. Just now there seems to be a sort of partisan contest to decide which party shall prove stronger for prohibition in its national platform next year. But the present indications are that both Republicans

and Democrats will use as positive a form of words as can be found in asserting their firm determination to uphold the Constitution and enforce the law.

Everybody must approve of the general doctrine. The trouble comes in its application. Thoughtful men are disturbed by the evidence of a sort of unreality, an artificial attitude, on the part of the public men who are forced to take a position on this question. They are most anxious that the law should be enforced, but they greatly prefer that some one else should do the enforcing. Out of the whole discussion at Washington the one definite conclusion which emerges is that there is everywhere a tendency to shirk and shift the responsibility for making national prohibition a living thing instead of merely a statutory enactment.

Sweeping and unguarded assertions are the commonest pitfalls for the feet of party leaders arguing this matter. Senator BORAH did not wholly escape them in his speech to the conference. He said that he should be a "whining hypocrite" if he demanded enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment, and said nothing about the First Amendment. Why did he omit mention of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments? They are a dead letter, as respects some of their provisions, in a large section of this nation. But few people are excited over this nullification of the supreme law of the land, because it is no longer made a political issue. Prohibition is made such an issue at the present time, and that accounts for the excitement about it.

Mr. BORAH was much exercised over the spectacle of violations of the Volstead act by rich men. But he failed to discriminate between the ownership and consumption of liquor that are perfectly legal and the unlawful kind. Moreover, the endeavor is made to shut people up to the choice of saying that they are either for upholding the Constitution or for ignoring it. But this is entirely to overlook the fact that many law-abiding men believe that the Volstead act misinterpreted the Eighteenth Amendment in some particulars, and that a movement to bring about its amendment into a more reasonable form is perfectly legitimate.

Honest prohibitionists will admit that a great many difficulties have

arisen in the enforcement of the law which they did not foresee. An effort now to adjust the statute to conditions as they exist may be not only good sense but wholly consistent with the stoutest advocacy of the enforcement of the law, so long as it is the law.

10-17-23

The Negro and Prohibition Enforcement

SUPPORTED BY THE WETS in his campaign for Governor of the State because he favored the return of light wines and beer, there was little left for Governor Smith to do except to sign the Cuvillier bill repealing the Mullan-Gage prohibition enforcement act. New York State was, is, and unless greater activity is shown by Federal prohibition agents in the future than in the past, shall remain wet. It is wet for two reasons: First, because a large number of its citizens are opposed to prohibition and, second, because there is so much corruption in its officials that it is next to impossible to enforce such a measure.

THE AMOUNT OF WISDOM shown by Governor Smith in signing the repealer over the protests of leading Republicans in the State and thousands of members of his own party outside of the State, remains to be seen. New York City is undoubtedly with him, and we have every reason to believe that the majority of the voters in the State are with him.

FROM the colored man's point of view the enforcement of the prohibition amendment to the Constitution furnishes an interesting and vital side-light, which does not necessarily concern the subject of prohibition itself. This side-light concerns itself with the enforcement of the Constitution of the United States and its amendments over so-called state's rights. Grandfather clauses and Jim Crow law, which clearly violate the Constitution, have been upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States on the ground that to nullify them would violate the sovereignty of the State. It was on this ground that the more or less liberal New York WORLD opposed the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill. Democrats everywhere are in favor of states' rights because they are then left free to determine who shall vote and who should not vote; who shall abide by the law and who shall not. Governor Smith in signing the bill has upheld the traditions of his party.

BUT THE BEST INTEREST OF THE NEGRO will be found in the enforcement of the Constitution over the laws of the individual states which has always been incorporated in the general principles of the Republican party, and for this reason he ought to be willing to be denied whiskey, wine and beer if such a denial will give backbone to the supreme law of the land.

PRESIDENT HARDING has promised to see that the prohibition amendment and the Volstead act are enforced in this State even if he is compelled to use the army and navy in doing it. This, too, furnishes an interesting precedent, for if the President has power to use the armed forces of the nation to enforce the Eighteenth Amendment, he likewise has power to use these same forces to enforce the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments.

Temperance-1923

CHARLOTTE, N. C. 1923

OCT 14 1923

PROHIBITION AND THE NEGRO.

Bishop George C. Clement, a citizen of fine repute in Charlotte, but for some years past located at Louisville, as head of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, has an intimate knowledge of the characteristics of the negro race; he knows both the virtues and failings of the negro, and because of his many years of leadership of the race, he is regarded by the colored people as a man of wise authority and one whose declarations of opinion are to be held in respect. What is known as a Citizens' Conference was under way in Washington last week and Bishop Clement was one of the speakers. He confined his remarks entirely to the negro and prohibition and the blessings that are developing for the race through closing of the saloons. Prohibition, he evidenced, is rescuing the race from the "unhappy and dangerous combination of bad whiskey and bad negroes." It is Bishop Clement's observation that the negro is "overwhelmingly in favor of enforcement of the prohibition laws," as they have seen that it is necessary to protection of the weaker members of the race from the evil effect of liquors. In behalf of all the negroes he wants the Eighteenth Amendment enforced because of the tremendous moral value it would prove to the race. Negro leadership, he represented, is interested in "every law that tends to decrease poverty and suffering and that will bring peace and happiness to the homes of the humblest of our people." He put into evidence the fact that since January, 1920, "many hundreds of negroes who had been content to spend their money at the saloon for drink have learned to save. A minister in a certain city told me that scores of his members were not only contributing more to the support of the church, but also caring for their families better than ever and buying homes."

Every Southern community will afford evidence sustaining the truth of this statement Bishop Clement, however, was content to point to the new conditions in but one locality. He singled out the city of Winston-Salem as an example where, as he says, "more than 10,000 negroes are employed in the tobacco factories." Bishop Clement finds that since the coming of prohibition in Winston-Salem, "home-owning has increased more than 100 per cent, and the value of real estate and personal property owned by negroes together with the volume of business among negroes there, astonish the stranger." The thousands of dollars once squandered in saloons and vile joints now go toward home owning and home making. "In one of the larger cities of the South," he related, "where whiskey formerly reigned supreme, impoverishing, degrading and debauching the common laborer and the skilled mechanic alike, today a section of more than 30 blocks of splendid homes are being purchased, many of them by the very negroes who once spent their hard earned wage in the Saturday night carousal. In this same city the public schools are

crowded by healthy, well-dressed children; while the high school especially shows an increase of 100 per cent from 1919 to 1923."

In the light of these and many other observations that Bishop Clement has made, there remains no question with him, at least, he impressively observes, as to the interest of the American negro in the enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment.

North Carolina.

Temperance—1923.

The Negro and Prohibition

THE Negro has a deeper moral interest in the question. Prohibition is vital to the salvation of the race. Whatever evil consequences whisky may bring to the white race are multiplied by three when applied to the Negro. This disproportionate brunt of intemperance is not due to color, but to condition. The man without traditional inhibition and cultural self-restraint becomes the easiest victim of any evil habit. Every leader of thought and promoter of the better life among the colored people must of necessity be an advocate of prohibition. The question does not admit of debate or argument. Any Negro who opposes prohibition does so because his deeds are evil or his aims are sinister. I said on one occasion that the Negro bootlegger is the greatest enemy of his race. The assertion led to criticism in some quarters. But I wish to repeat and reaffirm the assertion. Not only does the black violator of the law contribute directly to the physical and moral damnation of his race; but he also furnishes an argument for the annulment of those provisions of the constitution intended for his especial benefit. If the Negro becomes bootlegger, he forfeits his moral right to condemn the political profiteer who violates the fourteenth or fifteenth amendment. The weak race cannot afford to trifle with moral issues. It will be a lucky political stroke for the Republican party to espouse the cause of prohibition, if for no other reason than that it will somewhat redeem its ancient reputation as the party of moral ideas, and will attract the great bulk of the Negro vote, which is so significantly slipping away from its old political moorings.

Pennsylvania.

It is a well-recognized principle that every man owes a duty to society. He would fall short of his obligation if he were content merely to live within the rules prescribed for himself and his fellows. If he would measure up to the requirements of citizenship he must use every legitimate means to prevent transgression by others and see that justice is meted out to those who do transgress.

A man may be a thousand miles away from the scene of a felony, have no knowledge of it whatever at the time the crime is committed or previous to its commission, and yet become accessory after the fact by receiving and giving aid or comfort to the felon. The law prescribes a penalty for such accessory.

Proper respect for law will not only prevent a man from giving comfort to the lawless, but it will impel him to co-operate with constituted authority in upholding the law.

This does not mean that a man should attempt to usurp the functions of the peace officer or the courts in arresting, trying and passing sentence and inflicting the penalty. Such misdirected efforts would be lawless in themselves.

It does mean, however, that when the law-abiding citizen has knowledge of a crime, contemplated or committed, he should make it known to the proper authorities and then aid them in every practical way in its prevention or punishment.

One hundred and fifty commissioned peace officers in a city of 200,000 is inadequate to cope with the criminal element, even under normal conditions, unless backed up by the sentiment and service of those who stand for law and order. With the proper assistance of citizenry and courts, they should be able to reduce and hold crime to the minimum.

Yesterday we carried a story from New Orleans telling of the organization and work of the Volstead Vigilantes. The vigilantes are not setting themselves up as the law, but as sympathizers with the law. When they have reasonable grounds for belief that the law is being violated, their suspicions are communicated to the prohibition enforcement officers, who conduct investigations and make arrests if justified by the evidence. The guilt or innocence of the suspects will

be determined by the federal court, the authorities.

And federal courts have the reputation of grinding so fine that the guilty always tremble when arraigned.

New Orleans is a favored port of the rum-runner. It isn't a far sweep across the gulf from Cuba, the source of much of the contraband liquor that finds its way into the United States. Scattered about to the northeast of Cuba are the Bahama Islands. A dash from these through the Straits of Florida and more rum-laden vessels ride the waves of the Gulf of Mexico.

Thus it is that New Orleans has become a liquor distributing point for supplying in part not only border states, but all the states of the Mississippi Valley and even the great city of Chicago on the shore of Lake Michigan.

However, a very small percentage of the liquor sold in this section comes from New Orleans or any other seaport. The mere knowledge that great quantities of foreign wet goods are smuggled into the Louisiana metropolis makes it possible for the local bootlegger in each valley state to paste a foreign label on his home-made poison and sell it for imported whisky. When the resident of an inland town gives up \$10 or \$15 for a quart of "imported" liquor the odds are ten to one that he is taking a chance by drinking a concoction manufactured within 20 miles of the spot where the bootlegger swindled him.

If the Volstead Vigilantes succeed in killing the whisky traffic in New Orleans, and the fact becomes generally known, there will be less liquor of any kind sold in the states bordering on the Mississippi River. It will not be so easy for the bootlegger to deceive the man who is afraid of the moonshine product.

For that reason law-abiding people throughout the south will watch with interest the work of this new organization.

In the meantime it would not be a bad thing for every community to have an organization fashioned along similar lines. It must be borne in mind, however, that only through wise leadership can the activities of such a body be confined to legitimate channels. It is not to be substituted for the law or arrogate unto itself enforcement of the law. It is only to co-operate with those commissioned to administer the law, and should be organized only with the full consent of

To function properly, a vigilance committee must be governed by men who are honest, wise and strong. Otherwise it is a menace rather than an agency for good. Once let bigots or mercenaries or fanatics get control and it becomes a greater evil than that which it was originally organized to suppress.

The Volstead Vigilantes have not set themselves up as regulators of the community's morals or meddlers in religious and political affairs. They are organized for the one purpose of co-operating with officials in enforcement of law through the legally prescribed channels. Should they attempt to go beyond that point they will fail and become part and parcel of that which they oppose.

An outbreak of banditry in Memphis about three years ago was responsible for organization in this city of a vigilance committee to aid in upholding the law. They worked hand-in-hand with the executive and judicial machinery of the county. They didn't set themselves up as peace officers or judge or jury. They were strong men who remained within the law themselves and co-operated with constituted authority in bringing into court those who had transgressed the law. They had faith in the law and as citizens fulfilled their obligations to the community.

We suggest to the Chamber of Commerce, which was responsible for the vigilantes, the advisability of including a permanent committee of like character in its scope of activities. The city looks to the chamber for leadership in civic affairs. Under its supervision such an organization could function properly and be of material aid to those charged with responsibility of maintaining order in this community.

In the meantime each of us individually should not only discharge our obligations to society by a strict observance of law, but exercise proper vigilance in seeing to it that the law is upheld in every particular.